

Sports Chatter



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By Brian Merrifield

Here it is! The time has come. The pre-season softball tournament has arrived and it's becoming clearer who are the teams to beat and who are the also-rans.

Several teams experienced the agony of defeat last Tuesday. The 8th Security Forces Squadron (K9), Mission Support Squadron, Maintenance Squadron, and the Civil Engineer Squadron (A) proved to be potential league doormats. Lucky for the unfortunate, this is just the pre-season and there is still hope.

The 8th Communications Squadron (A) dismantled SFS (K9) 15 – 3. Somebody needs some more practice. Hope may be beyond their reach.

Right after the SFS blowout, it rained, providing the teams a handy excuse for the swiss cheese-like defense on display.

In a battle of the cubicle dwellers, the 8th Comptroller Flight "Money Wolves" derailed the MSS "Matadors", 17 – 10. Both teams fought hard for the victory but you know

Sports Chatter is a column where the sports fan can be heard. E-mail comments, responses to articles, or topic ideas to 8th Fighter Wing Public Affairs at 8fw.pa@kunsan.af.mil. All emails are considered for future columns. Names will be withheld upon sender's request.

MSS, they, like their counterparts, sit in cozy offices all day and aren't used to playing in the rain. However, maybe they just didn't want their pay messed up. Since the MSS team jerseys weren't ready yet, two MSS guys sported the exact same San Diego Padres. The only good thing San Diego has is a zoo. No jerseys and the season has just about started, count on the MSS team being a cellar dweller. But then again, it's only pre-season.

After CPTF defeated MSS, the 8th Supply Squadron (A) bombed the 8th MXS 21 – 14. It looks as though supply has a tough squad this year and have strong title hopes.

In the nightcap, OSS doubled up CES (A) 10 – 5.

By the looks of some of these scores, it appears that some of the league's talent would prosper by entering in Saturday's Wolf Pack Fitness Center's bench press competition. Beef up those chests and arms a little and maybe hit some balls out of the infield. It must be the bats right? Or maybe the ball was too soft from the rain or something. Of course, that was it. Remember, the season starts Monday. Leave your excuses behind and just bring it. See you on the diamond.



American League

1. SFS – 8-1
2. CES – 7-1
3. SUPS – 6-3
4. SVS – 3-5
5. MDG – 2-6
6. CS – 2-6
7. MSS (B) – 1-8

National League

1. MXS – 10-0
2. TRANS – 8-0
3. OSS – 5-4
4. 80th FS – 4-6
5. CPTF – 4-6
6. CES (B) – 3-6
7. ARMY – 3-7
8. MSS (A) – 2-8

Game Schedule American League

Monday
6 p.m.
MSS (B) vs. SUPS
7 p.m.
SVS vs. SFS
8 p.m.
CES (A) vs. CS
Wednesday
6 p.m.
MDG vs. SFS
7 p.m.
MSS (B) vs. CS
8 p.m.
SVS vs. CES (A)

National League

Tuesday
6 p.m.
TRANS vs. MXS
7 p.m.
OSS vs. CPTF
8 p.m.
CES (B) vs. 80th FS
9 p.m.
ARMY vs. MSS (A)
Thursday
6 p.m.
OSS vs. MXS
7 p.m.
80th FS vs. ARMY
8 p.m.
MSS (A) vs. CES (B)
9 p.m.
CPTF vs. TRANS



Photo by Bob Jensen

Air Force Academy center Cadet Third Class Robin Kiska (with ball) breaks through the Navy defense with Cadet Third Class Tim Grady (left) and Cadet Fourth Class John Matchet supporting him. The Air Force Academy cadet rugby team beat both the Army and the Navy academy teams to win the Commandant's Trophy at the 18th Alamo City Fiesta Rugby Battle on April 28 in San Antonio.

Air Force Academy rugby team captures Commandant's Trophy

SAN ANTONIO (AFPN) -- The Air Force Academy cadet rugby team defeated teams from Annapolis and West Point to win the Commandant's Trophy at the 2001 Alamo City Fiesta Rugby Battle here April 28.

The Air Force shut out the Naval Academy team 12 - 0 in the morning and beat the West Point team 24 - 5 in the afternoon, to close their regular spring season.

Besides winning the Commandant's Trophy, the academy also fielded a team in the concurrent Sevens Tournament, competing against 14 local and regional teams. Sevens is a version of rugby with seven players per side rather than the normal 15 players. It also has shorter halves

than regular rugby games. The academy team won third place in that competition.

"Our biggest strength was teamwork and consistency," said Troy Harting, Air Force coach. "In other games throughout the season we had moments of brilliance with a few mistakes behind them, but here we played very level, consistent games with a lot of effort from the opening whistle to the closing seconds. When we gave them that kind of pressure every second of the game we made it real hard for them to recover and that's what ultimately lead to our victory."

The Air Force Academy rugby team has been sending its junior teams to play in the annual San Antonio tournament since 1987. Starting in 1994, Alamo City Rugby

Football Club, the tournament sponsors, started inviting all three academies to send their junior teams down to compete against each other.

The academy teams do play each other one on one several times during the year, but this tournament is the only one at which they are all together Harting said.

"I really enjoy the inter-academy games because in a way it's almost like playing ourselves," he said. "They have different styles in how they conduct their game but the athletes, the guys themselves, are much like ours. We come from similar backgrounds, have that similar military service and typically we don't outweigh a whole lot of people out on the field."